

enforce the instructions issued to them prescribing various precautions to prevent hijacking, and if so, what action was taken against particular officials.

I want to know whether the Government are going to propose an international court to punish hijackers whether they belong to this or that group in any part of the world.

DR. KARAN SINGH : In fact, the detailed instructions against hijacking were given after the hijacking. Therefore, the question of the officials not being bound by their earlier instructions does not arise.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : It has happened for the last three or four years.

DR. KARAN SINGH : We had generally looked into it, but it was strengthened after this hijacking.

As for the code, there are already international usages and there is international law against hijacking which is a crime, and therefore we have not proposed any new code for this purpose.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : No doubt the Minister said that the passengers were searched, and we know how we are searched from head to foot. To stop harassing the passengers, will the Government consider installing metal detectors in all the airports of the country ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : Yes, they are being installed in some selected airports, but that will not obviate the necessity of searching, because, for one thing, it is not possible to put metal detectors in each and every airport, and secondly, it is possible that there may be some instruments which may not show on the metal detector also. So, the search will have to continue in addition to the metal detector.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : During the recent mid term poll, a General Secretary of the Swatantra Party was carrying money for distribution, and the money has been confiscated.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request you to confine yourself to the question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : May I know

what steps the Government has taken, whether any investigation has been made in this behalf ?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry it is not relevant.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : This is first-hand information.

MR. SPEAKER : He can give separate notice. It does not arise out of this question. I am not allowing it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The question is very relevant, and I would like to have a categorically answer.

MR. SPEAKER : I categorically say that it is not relevant.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Protect me, Mr. Speaker. These things were brought to light.....

MR. SPEAKER : I need protection from you, myself.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : Is it a fact that the hijacker Hashim Quereshi was an employee of the border security police ? Is it also a fact that he informed the Government of the State that a plane was likely to be hijacked by Pakistan and that when the State Government wanted to interrogate him, some Central Agency did not permit this to be done ? In the light of this what preventive measures were taken ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is about the special training to the guards and precautionary measures. There is no question about individuals.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM : This Quereshi was part of the training body deputed to prevent hijacking.

MR. SPEAKER : You can give separate notice.

Realisation of Arrears of Income-Tax

*95. **SHRI CHANDRAPPAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total outstanding amount of income-tax arrears at present ;

(b) the steps taken to realise the arrears ;

(c) whether as a result of these steps there has been any improvement in the collection of arrears ; and

(d) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) As on 31st December, 1970, the arrears of Income-tax amounted to Rs. 565.73 crores.

(b) The requisite information is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The collections out of arrear demand upto 31st December, 1970 amounted to Rs. 119.52 crores as compared to collections of Rs. 98.74 crores during the corresponding period of the last year.

Statement

The following specific measures have been taken for speedy collection of arrears :

(i) Taking over a recovery work hitherto done by officials of the State Governments.

Work taken over fully in Commissioners' charges at Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Work taken over partly in Commissioners' charges of West Bengal, Madras, Mysore, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and Poona.

The Government have recently sanctioned 68 posts of Tax Recovery work is being taken over in the remaining Commissioners' charges by the Department.

(ii) The Functional Distribution Scheme under which the work of collection of taxes has been made the specific function of one or more income-tax officers in the Range was introduced in 1966 and has been further extended during the last year.

(iii) Acceptance of crossed cheques by the Department and opening of special receipt counters for this purpose in the Income-tax Offices.

(iv) Publication of names of assesses who are defaulters in the payment of taxes over certain prescribed limits.

(v) Arrears Clearance Fortnights are being observed all over the country. During the period, special emphasis is laid on carrying out pending adjustments/rectifications, giving effect to appellate orders and collecting the net demands due from the assesses.

(vi) Two Additional Commissioners of Income-tax (Recovery) have been posted exclusively for recovery work in each of Commissioners' Charges at Bombay and Calcutta. Similarly one Additional Commissioner of Income-tax (Recovery) has been posted in each of Commissioners' Charges at Delhi and Madras.

(vii) Sixty posts of Income-tax Officers (Collection) have been recently sanctioned by the Government for attending to the work of liquidation of arrear demands.

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : From the statement made by the hon. Minister it appears that income-tax arrears had gone up to Rs. 565.73 crores from about Rs. 554 crores according to a statement made sometime in 1969. At that time there were twenty individuals or companies each of whose income-tax arrears amounted to more than Rs. 1 crore. What steps have the Government taken to realise the money from these companies and have the Government written off some of these arrears from these companies or individuals ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SAUKLA : As for the first question, the steps that have been taken to realise the arrears have been given in the statement which I have laid on the Table of the House in answer to part (b) of the question. As for specific parties, if the hon. Member would indicate to me the names of parties, I shall collect and supply that information.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It has to be supplied by the Government.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I do not know which company the hon. Member is referring to. If he gives details we shall collect that information. We are not interested in hiding any information.

As for the quantum, I have indicated in my main answer the new steps we have taken. Arrears are realised at a much faster rate and the amount of arrears is much less now than it used to be before.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : He has asked what is the amount written off.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him ask it himself.

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : What was the amount written off ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : In case he is asking about the written off amount of certain individual companies, over a crore of rupees, I would require the names of those companies, to indicate the position, and then I shall gladly do so. But if in a general way if he asks how much money was written off, I have some information on that amount of money that has been written off because it could not be recovered and because the company went insolvent or because the people were not traceable and all that. I would give the figures here. In 1967-68, Rs. 33.66 lakhs were written off. In 1968-69, Rs. 62.42 lakhs were written off. In 1969-70, Rs. 238.28 lakhs were written off. In 1970-71, Rs. 415.27 lakhs were written off. This was done at the level of the Board. *(Interruption)*

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : The Minister wanted to know the names of the companies which were having more than Rs. 1 crore of tax arrears. I shall read out from an answer given in the Rajya Sabha by Mr. P. C. Sethi on 16-12-1969. The answer said, Mr. Kaashi Ram Agarwal of Calcutta tops the list with more than Rs. 3.3 crores, and it was followed by Mr. Balam Toluram of Tumsa with Rs. 2.9 crores; Mr. Dharma Teja, the former Chairman of the Jayanti Shipping Corporation, with Rs. 2.89 crores, and Mr. R. Dalmia of Delhi with Rs. 2.04 crores. If the Minister wants, I can pass this list on to him.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. *(Interruption)*

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : Out of these business tycoons I want to know how much money they have realised and how much they have written off.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I would give the information to the hon. Member and the House if a specific question is tabled on the matter.

DR. RANEN SEN : This question was put in the Rajya Sabha in 1969 and the answer was given. So, when the Minister came here he should have come with all the necessary information on the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is in a general form. If specific names were mentioned, the Minister would have been in a position to answer. He wants notice now. I think after notice is given he will give the information.

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : The question is very clear. I asked what steps were taken to realise the arrears and whether as a result of these steps there has been any improvement in the collection of tax arrears. I suppose the Minister should have come prepared to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER : He is prepared with the total assessment, not particularly about the names. It is much better if you give separate notice. *(Interruption)* I think it is also in the interest of hon. Members. If they give the specific names, information will be given in a very specific manner, and that will be much more useful than a vague reply.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : यह सिर्फ कैप्टेलिस्टों को बचाने की कोशिश है, इसके अलावा और कोई ह्राके मानी नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*

SHRI CHANDRAPPAN : The Minister in his statement has said—

MR. SPEAKER : You have finished your question. Yes, Mr. Nahata.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : While the Government dues from small men and others do not fall in arrears, there are arrears in respect of some big assessments. May I know whether this Government has any

statutory powers with which it can arm itself and recover these income-tax arrears? If the Government has such powers, why are those powers not exercised? If the Government does not have those powers, will the Government arm itself with legal powers to see to it that such arrears are recovered at an early date?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Government does have the powers and it is in exercise of such powers only that we have been able to improve the arrears recovery position that I have indicated in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the question that was tabled. We have the powers to recover the arrears as arrears of land revenue. Our difficulty was that the recovery proceedings had to be initiated through the State Governments and we found a lot of difficulty in realising the arrears of income-tax through the State apparatus. Now we have taken the powers and appointed staff in several circles of income-tax commissioners to recover the money by ourselves. This has been done in several circles partially and in several other circles we are going to introduce it very soon. It is not possible to introduce it in all the circles straightway because we will have to appoint competent officers to initiate recovery proceedings in the courts of law and take such measures. I emphatically refute Mr. Sambhali's statement that anybody is trying to protect the big tycoons. As you said, Sir, unless a specific question is asked, it is not possible for me to give the entire list right now. But it is not a fact that Government wants to protect anybody. We are prepared to give all legitimate information which is in our possession to the House.

SHRI S. B. GIRI : May I know how many persons were sent to prison for evading income-tax and what are their names?

MR. SPEAKER : Please send a separate notice for that.

SHRI S. B. GIRI : He said Government has got the legal powers to take action. In how many cases action was taken against evaders of income-tax?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : If a specific question is put, I shall give all the information.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We want your protection, Sir. The question is being evaded. If he cannot give the details, he can at least give the total number of persons jailed for this offence. It may be that not a single income-tax evader was jailed.

श्री भारद्वाज राव : मन्त्री महोदय ने जो आयकर की बकाया राशि बताई है तो यह कितनी पार्टियों, फैक्ट्रियों अथवा कम्पनियों पर बाकी है और कितनी कितनी बाकी हैं। उनकी कुल संख्या कितनी है और उनमें से 10 ऐसी कौन है जिनके ऊपर सबसे अधिक बाकी है?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The main question is about the amount of arrears, steps taken to realise them and whether the arrears position has improved after taking those steps. I have answered it. Now hon. members are asking questions about the names of the parties, amount outstanding against each party etc. The leader of the CPI group was pleased to observe that sufficient information is not being given and information is being evaded. He is absolutely incorrect. We do not want to evade any information. As a matter of fact, it is our policy to give as wide publicity as possible to the names of tax-evaders so that the country at large may know who are the tax-evaders.

MR. SPEAKER : If you are not in a position to answer, you may ask for separate notice rather than give a long explanation.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Repeatedly hon. members are asking the same question. I would request them through you to put specific questions about specific matters, so that I may be able to give all the information.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : When you have directed him to give the names, no separate notice is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a general question. If you had asked for names, he would have given them.

श्री भारद्वाज राव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने मन्त्री महोदय से स्पष्टिक क्वेश्चन पूछा था कि

आयकर की इस समय जो कुल राशि बकाया है वह कितनी पाटियों पर बकाया है और उसकी तादाद क्या है? अब क्या यह भी जनरल क्वेश्चन हो गया ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have indicated the total arrears of income-tax outstanding. I do not know at present how many parties constitute these arrears. If a specific question is asked, I will give all the information.

Shifting of Safdarjung Airport from its present Site

*96. **SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of shifting the Safdarjung airport from its present site has been considered by Government ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The question of shifting Safdarjung aerodrome is being examined. Meanwhile it has been decided to shift all passenger operations by DC-3 and larger transport aircraft from Safdarjung to Delhi (Palam) airport with effect from 1st May, 1971.

श्री सरजू पांडे : मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन विमानों को सफदर-जंग हवाई अड्डे से हटाने का क्या कारण है ? आखिर हम तरह का विचार सरकार ने क्यों किया है क्या इसको मन्त्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : कारण इसका यह है कि सफदरजंग हवाई अड्डा ऐसे स्थान पर स्थित है जहाँ अब उसके चारों ओर इस समय बिल्डिंग्स बन गई हैं और इसलिए हमने यह सोचा कि जो बड़े और भारी जहाज हैं उनको अब पालम के हवाई अड्डे पर ले जाया जाय तो उससे अधिक सुविधा होगी। इसके अलावा और भी बहुत से कारण हैं जिनसे यह सफदरजंग का हवाई अड्डा अंतःराष्ट्र स्थापन पर ही नहीं है।

Conversion of Loans into Equity Shares

*97. **SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision to convert loans advanced by public financial institutions to private industries into equity shares, has been implemented ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The public sector financial institutions have taken note of the Government decision on the recommendations of the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee, requiring them to exercise option for converting loans to be given and debentures to be subscribed by them in future, into equity of the assisted concerns, and are following it up in relevant cases. The detailed guidelines in this behalf are under active consideration of the Government and are expected to be finalised shortly.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : What are the relevant cases which are being followed up, so far as equity shares are concerned ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : When I mentioned relevant cases I meant wherever there are applications to the regular financial institutions and where large capital is raised by them. As a matter of fact, as I have said, some detailed guidelines are necessary in these matters for the use of the public financial institutions. They have to be finalised as a result of inter-ministerial discussions. We wanted certain recommendations from the Reserve Bank, which we have received. I think it is in a very final stage.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I want to know whether he has followed up the data and whether the companies have agreed to equity participation.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : Unless I know the specific cases I cannot give any information.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : The cases under consideration are interest-free loans or loans with interest ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN ; I